

## Message Text

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44

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00

NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 ACDA-07

TRSE-00 SAJ-01 MC-02 /069 W  
----- 077339

R 301706Z JUL 76

FM AMEMBASSY BONN

TO AMEMBASSY PARIS

SECSTATE WASHDC 0816

INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON

SECDEF WASHDC

USMISSION NATO BRUSSELS

USNMR SHAPE

CINC EUR VAIHINGEN

CINC USAREUR HEIDELBERG

USDEL MBFR VIENNA

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 02 BONN 12856

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MORG, FR, GW

SUBJECT: WITHDRAWAL OF FRENCH ARTILLERY UNITS FROM THE  
FRG

REF: BONN 12699 DTG 281702Z JUL 76

1. A SENIOR DEFENSE MINISTRY OFFICIAL HAS INFORMED AN  
EMBASSY OFFICER THAT ONLY TWO ARTILLERY REGIMENTS ARE  
CURRENTLY INVOLVED IN THE WITHDRAWAL FROM THE FRG.  
ACCORDING TO OUR SOURCE, THE 50TH REGIMENT HAS ALREADY  
LEFT AND THE 32ND IS SCHEDULED TO LEAVE SOMETIME BEFORE  
THE END OF THE YEAR, ALTHOUGH THJACT DATE HAS STILL  
NOT BEEN FIXED. (COMMENT: USDAO BONN, IN A CONVER-  
SATION WITH FRENCH AIR ATTACHE AND ASST. ARMY ATTACHE, ODTZS INFUIMDRO  
KKSYP THE YIVYMPKGXS(#)) WOULD ALSO BE WITH-  
DRAWN THIS YEAR. WE ASSUME THAT THE GERMANS HAVE NOT  
YET BEEN OFFICIALLY INFORMED OF THIS).

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2. THE OFFICIAL CONFIRMED THAT THE FRG WAS INFORMED BUT NOT CONSULTED ABOUT THE FRENCH WITHDRAWALS. HOWEVER, THE FRENCH MOVE WAS NOT A SURPRISE FOR GERMAN AUTHORITIES, SINCE FRENCH DEFENSE MINISTER BOURGES AS WELL AS HIS PREDECESSOR KEPT DEFENSE MINISTER LEBER INFORMALLY AWARE OF FRENCH THSLKING IN QBS REYARD.

3. TMXPFORMAL FRENCH UNNOTIFICATION ABOUT THE WITHDRAWALS DJ WAS MADE IN ACCORDANCE WITH ARTICTJNPY OF THETFZALN SOFASTUPPLEMENT AND THCDECEMBER 1966 EXCHANGE

(#)  
THAT THE 50TH ARTILLERY GIMENT WASN EING WITHDRAWN  
AND ON JUNE 30 ADVISED THAT THE 32ND WOULD LEAVE. THE

NOTE BY OC/T: BONN 12856 SECTION 1 OF 2 TEXT GARBLED.  
CORRECTION TO FOLLOW.

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00

NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 ACDA-07

TRSE-00 SAJ-01 MC-02 /069 W  
----- 077383

R 301706Z JUL 76  
FM AMEMBASSY BONN  
TO AMEMBASSY PARIS  
SECSTATE WASHDC 0817  
INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON  
SECDEF WASHDC  
USMISSION NATO BRUSSELS  
USNMR SHAPE  
CINC EUR VAIHINGEN  
CINC USAREUR HEIDELBERG  
USDEL MBFR VIENNA

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 02 OF 02 BONN 12856

OFFICIAL INDICATED FURTHER THAT THE TOTAL NUMBER OF MEN INVOLVED, WHEN THE WITHDRAWAL IS COMPLETE, WILL BE ABOUT 2,000 RATHER THAN 3,000 MEN AS REPORTED IN THE PRESS.

4. PRESS TREATMENT IN THE FRG OF THE FRENCH WITHDRAWAL HAS BEEN RELATIVELY LIGHT AND FACTUAL. EDITORIAL COMMENT THUS FAR HAS ALSO BEEN FAIRLY LIMITED. THE "FRANKFURTER ALLGEMEINE" (INDEPENDENT, CONSERVATIVE) LAMENTED THE FACT THAT THE FRENCH DID NOT LEAVE BEHIND AT LEAST ONE OF THE THREE (SIC) REGIMENTS, SINCE ONLY TWO WERE REPORTEDLY GOING TO BE REEQUIPPED WITH PLUTON. THE EDITORIAL CONCLUDED BY NOTING THAT ONE HAS AN UNEASY POLITICAL FEELING WHEN A NATIONAL BORDER ISOLATES FRENCH FORCES FROM OTHER NATO UNITS. ANOTHER EDITORIAL IN THE "SUEDDEUTSCHE ZEITUNG" (INDEPENDENT, LIBERAL) RAISED THE ISSUE OF THE SHORT RANGE OF PLUTON

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AND THE POSSIBILITY OF THE FRENCH INITIATING INDEPENDENTLY A NUCLEAR WARNING TO AN APPROACHING ENEMY. THE NEWSPAPER SUGGESTS THAT BONN AND PARIS CLARIFY THE SITUATION SOON, WHILE NOTING THAT MUCH WATER WILL FLOW DOWN THE RHINE BEFORE THIS HAPPENS.

HILLENBRAND

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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
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**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
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